



April 25, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Maine International Trade Center, I am pleased provide our organization's strong support of the State of Maine's request for federal funding under the *2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Program*. The projects envisioned in this request will help prepare Maine ports for the future, which in turn will benefit both Maine's and the national economies, as well as support good paying jobs for all Mainers.

For centuries, Maine's port industry and marine transportation system have been a significant economic driver. Careers and fortunes have been made from what is provided by the sea; and Maine's people have a robust maritime history that includes shipbuilding, fishing, and lobstering. Our seaports at Portland, Searsport, and Eastport have been the focal point of the state's maritime strategy since the late 1970s. That long term effort has benefited the state greatly by focusing long-term planning and targeted public investments.

Improvements at the Port of Portland have raised the profile of international trade and the importance of modern port facilities in both the public consciousness and the state's economic development planning. It is time to consider how port infrastructure can play a role in expanding the economy in other parts of the state as well. Our partners have collaborated with local officials and stakeholders as well as private businesses to understand the highest priority projects: those that will yield the greatest impact Maine industry. Refrigerated container upgrades and dredging at the Port of Portland, Offshore Wind port development design and environmental work in Searsport, and the rehabilitation of the Eastport Fish Pier and extension of the Eastport breakwater are all vital to prepare Maine's ports for the 2030s and beyond. These buildable projects will provide a significant return on investment that benefits the people of Maine and the United States.

Programs funded under this application will also provide an opportunity for Maine to take a major step in its path towards developing a floating Offshore Wind port facility. Maine has significant climate and clean energy goals, which include a significant development opportunity for floating offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine and beyond. This emerging industry depends entirely on floating wind-specific port infrastructure; Maine intends lead by developing the largest dedicated floating offshore wind port facility on the US East Coast.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wade Merritt', is written over a horizontal line.

Wade Merritt
President, Maine International Trade Center



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note
COMMISSIONER

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to write to you in strong support of the State of Maine's request for federal funding from the *2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Program*. With this \$39 million funding request, the federal government can help prepare Maine ports for the future, benefit Maine and national economies, and provide good paying jobs for Mainers.

Maine's port industry and marine transportation system have been a significant economic driver for centuries. The hard-working people of Maine have made careers out of what is provided by the sea, and we have a robust maritime history that includes shipbuilding, fishing and lobstering, and three deep-water commercial seaports. Portland, Searsport, and Eastport have been the focal point of Maine's three-port-strategy since the late 1970's, and these ports have benefited greatly from planning and targeted investments.

Now it is the time to think about how our ports play a role in the state economy for the next decade. This funding application is our attempt to modernize Maine's three-ports. We have collaborated with local officials and private businesses to understand the highest priority projects that will yield the greatest impact Maine industry. Refrigerated container upgrades and dredging at the Port of Portland, offshore wind port development design and environmental work in Searsport, and the rehabilitation of the Eastport Fish Pier and extension of the Breakwater are all vital to prepare our ports for the 2030's and beyond. We have worked hard to put forward buildable projects that provide a return on investment to benefit the people of Maine, the New England Region, and the United States.

Furthermore, this application provides an opportunity for Maine to take a major step in its path towards developing a floating offshore wind port facility. Maine has significant climate and clean energy goals, and offshore wind plays a key part in helping Maine achieve them, while also keeping the state aligned with the wind energy goals of the nation. The emerging offshore wind industry depends entirely on specific port infrastructure, and Maine intends to be a leader in this sector by developing the largest dedicated floating offshore wind port facility on the US East Coast.

We appreciate your continued support and commitment and thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

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Bruce A. Van Note
Commissioner



April 25, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

**Maine Better
Transportation
Association**

150 Capitol Street, Suite 5
Augusta, Maine 04330

207-622-0526
mbtaonline.org

Please count the Maine Better Transportation Association (MBTA) as a strong supporter of the State of Maine's request for federal funding from the *2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Program*. This request is critical to the State of Maine as we advance our economy and enhance clean transportation for the region. Clearly, this \$39 million request, if funded, would be a strong show of support from the federal government as the state helps to prepare Maine ports for the future.

MBTA is a statewide coalition of 450 members who plan, design, build, maintain, operate and use Maine's transportation infrastructure. They include bus and rail companies, transportation design engineers and contractors, public works officials, marine and aviation entities, and others committed to a safer and more efficient transportation network.

Maine's maritime and port industries have a long history in Maine and are an integral part of our economy and of our heritage. Our maritime industry has provided well-paying jobs to many hard-working people of Maine who have made careers out of what is provided by the sea. Our maritime heritage includes shipbuilding, fishing and lobstering, and three deep-water commercial seaports: Portland, Searsport, and Eastport. They have been the focal point of Maine's three-port-strategy since the late 1970's and have benefited greatly from planning and targeted investments.

As we prepare to move our port infrastructure forward in the next decade, MBTA is confident that this funding, if received, will help enable our ports to further enhance the state's economy. The funding will be used to modernize Maine's three major ports, and the MaineDOT and Maine Port Authority are aware of the needs as they have sought input from local and private officials and businesses to better understand the highest priorities for each region that will yield the greatest impact for Maine. From the public outreach conducted by MaineDOT, we know that the following priorities would include buildable projects that provide a return on investment to benefit the region and the entire country:

- Port of Portland: Refrigerated container upgrades and dredging
- Port of Searsport: Offshore wind port development design and environmental work
- Eastport: Rehabilitation of the Eastport Fish Pier and extension of the Breakwater

Finally, this application enables Maine to take a major step in its path towards developing a floating offshore wind port facility to help meet the state's aggressive but necessary climate and clean energy goals. The emerging offshore wind industry depends entirely on specific port infrastructure, and Maine hopes to be a leader in this sector by developing the largest dedicated floating offshore wind port facility on the US East Coast.

Mr. Secretary, thank you for your continued support and commitment and for your consideration of this critical application.

Sincerely,

Maria R. Fuentes
Executive Director